

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an umbrella post, comprising:

providing an umbrella post having an upper end including an opening suitable to support receive an upper portion of an umbrella top and a lower end for insertion into the ground;

integrally attaching a first handle to a first region of the post;

integrally attaching a second handle to a second region of the post; ~~and~~

wherein the first handle is integrally attached a predetermined distance along a length of the post from the second handle[.]; and

wherein the first and the second handle can be locked in a first position perpendicular to the length of the post to receive a downward force applied to the first and the second handle to facilitate insertion of the lower end into the ground.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein integrally attaching includes pivotally attaching the first handle and the second handle such that the first handle and the second handle can move into a first position perpendicular to the length of the post.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66, wherein integrally attaching includes pivotally attaching first handle and the second handle such that the first handle and the second handle can move into a second position parallel to the length of the post.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein integrally attaching includes pivotally attaching the first handle and the second handle such that the first handle and the second handle can releasably lock in the first position relative the post.

69. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an umbrella, comprising:
constructing a post, where the post includes an upper end including an opening suitable to support receive an upper portion of an umbrella top and a lower end for insertion into the ground;
constructing a pair of handles along a first region of the post; and
constructing a handle along a second region of the post, the pair of handles along the first region being spaced apart from the handle along the second region by a predetermined distance along a length of the post[.]; and
wherein the handles can be locked in a first position perpendicular to the length of the post to receive a downward force applied to the handles to facilitate insertion of the lower end into the ground.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein constructing the pair of handles along the first region and constructing the handle along the second region includes constructing the handles in a retractable manner such that the handles can be moved into a first position perpendicular to the length of the post.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein constructing the pair of handles along the first region and constructing the handle along the second region includes constructing the handles in a retractable manner such that the handles can be moved into a second position parallel to the length of the post.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein constructing the handles in a retractable manner includes constructing the handles such that the handles can be releasably locked in the first position and the second position relative the post.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein constructing the handles includes integrally fabricating the handles along the post.

74. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating an umbrella, comprising:
fabricating a post having a lower end and an upper end including an opening suitable to support receive an upper portion of an umbrella; ~~and~~
fabricating a pair of hand levers along a first region of the post and a foot lever along a second region of the post, the foot lever being spaced apart from the hand levers by a predetermined distance along a length of the post[.]; and
wherein the hand and the foot levers can be locked in a first position perpendicular to the length of the post to receive a downward force applied to the hand and the foot levers to facilitate insertion of the lower end into the ground.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein fabricating the hand levers and the foot lever includes fabricating the hand levers and the foot lever in a retractable manner such that the pair of hand levers and the foot lever can be moved into a first position perpendicular to the length of the post and can be moved into a second position parallel to the length of the post.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein fabricating the hand levers and the foot lever in a retractable manner includes fabricating the hand levers and the foot lever such that the pair of hand levers and the foot lever can be releasably locked in the first position and the second position relative the post.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein fabricating the pair of hand levers and the foot lever includes integrally fabricating the pair of hand levers and the foot lever along the post.

78. (Currently Amended) An umbrella, comprising:
a post having a lower end and an upper end including an opening suitable to support receive an upper portion of an umbrella top;
a pair of handles attached to a first region of the post; ~~and~~

a handle attached to a second region of the post, wherein the first region and the second region are spaced apart by a predetermined distance along the post[.];

and

wherein the handles can be locked in a first position perpendicular to a length of the post to receive a downward force applied to the handles to facilitate insertion of the lower end into the ground.

79. (Canceled)

80. (Currently Amended) The umbrella of claim 78 [[79]], wherein the pair of handles attached to the first region can be retracted into a second position parallel to the length of the post.

81. (Previously Presented) The umbrella of claim 80, wherein the handle attached to the second region can be retracted into a second position parallel to the length of the post.

82. (Currently Amended) An umbrella, comprising:

a post having a lower end for insertion into the ground, and an upper end including an opening suitable to support receive an upper portion of an umbrella top;

two or more handles attached at a first region of the post; and

two or more handles attached at a second region of the post, wherein the first region and the second region are separated by a distance along the post[.]; and

wherein the handles can be locked in a first position perpendicular to a length of the post to receive a downward force applied to the handles to facilitate insertion of the lower end into the ground.

83. (Canceled)

84. (Canceled)

85. (Currently Amended) The umbrella of claim 82 [[84]], wherein the two or more handles attached at the first region and the two or more handles attached at the second region can retract into a second position parallel to the length of the post.

86. (Currently Amended) An umbrella, comprising:

a post comprising an upper region including an opening suitable to receive an upper portion of an umbrella top and a lower region; ~~and~~

three or more handles pivotally connected to the post, the three or more handles having a range of motion including a first position perpendicular to a length of the post to receive a downward force applied to the handles to facilitate insertion of the lower region into the ground and including a second position parallel to the length of the post;

wherein the three or more handles include at least one handle attached at the lower region of the post and at least two handles attached toward the upper region of the post; and

wherein the handles attached toward the upper region are separated from the handle attached at the lower region by a predetermined distance along the post.

87. (Previously Presented) The umbrella of claim 86, wherein the three or more handles have a downward range of motion from the first position to the second position and an upward range of motion from the second position to the first position.

88. (Previously Presented) The umbrella of claim 86, wherein where the handles attached toward the upper region are separated from the handle attached at the lower region by a distance greater than two feet.

89. (Previously Presented) The umbrella of claim 86, wherein the three or more handles pivotally connected to the post have a range of motion of 180 degrees.

90. (Currently Amended) An umbrella post, comprising:

a post having a lower region and an upper region including an opening suitable to support receive an upper portion of an umbrella top;~~and~~

three or more handles formed directly on the post, wherein the three or more handles include a first handle attached at the lower region of the post and a pair of handles attached at a different region of the post and spaced apart from the first handle by a predetermined distance[.]; and

wherein the handles can be locked in a first position perpendicular to a length of the post to receive a downward force applied to the handles to facilitate insertion of the lower region into the ground.

91. (Previously Presented) The umbrella post of claim 90, wherein the pair of handles and the first handle can be movably positioned into a first position perpendicular to a length of the post and movably positioned into a second position parallel to the length of the post.